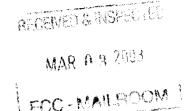
## Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Montgomery County

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February 14, 2003



Marlene 11. Dortch Secretary Office of the Secretary Ecderal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, SW, TW-B204 Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Application by Verizon Maryland, Verizon Washington, DC and Verizon West Virginia for Authorization to Provide In-Region, InterLATA Services in States of Maryland, Washington, D.C., and West Virginia. WC Docket No. 02-384

Dear Ms. Dortch

The Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Montgomery County strongly encourages the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to grant approval to Verizon's application to provide long-distance telephone service. The HCCMC is the largest Hispanic membership organization in Montgomery County, Maryland, and its leading business voice. HCCMC is a strong advocate of the free market. We believe the elimination government restrictions on telephone service will lead to greater competition, better service and reduced costs. **As** a result our membership will be a direct beneficiary.

In summary, the HCCMC respectfully requests the FCC approve Verizon's application at the earliest possible date. Our members are anxious to see more choices, more competition.

Sincerely yours:

Carlos Scandiffio

President

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